

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD SUMMARY

Thursday, March 29, 2001

SENATE

Measures Introduced:

S. 645. A bill to require individuals who lobby the President on pardon issues to register under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 and to require the President to report any gifts, pledges, or commitments of a gift to a trust fund established for purposes of establishing a Presidential library for that President after his or her term has expired; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Specter

Pages S 3151-2, S 3154-7

S. 651. A bill to provide for the establishment of an assistance program for health insurance consumers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Reed

Pages S 3152, S 3162-4

S. 664. A bill to *provide jurisdictional standards for the imposition of State and local tax obligations on interstate commerce*, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Gregg

Page S 3152, S 3171-2

S. 27. Campaign Finance Reform:

Senate continued consideration of S. 27, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide bipartisan campaign reform, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S 3070-S 3141, D 285

Adopted:

Nelson Amendment No. 159, to prohibit fraudulent solicitation of funds.

Pages S 3122, D 285

Dodd (for Kerry) Amendment No. 160, to provide a study of the effects of State laws that provide public financing of elections.

Pages S 3123-4, D 285

Dodd (for Thompson) Amendment No. 163, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to enhance criminal penalties for election law violations. (Sentencing Commission Mentioned)

Pages S 3127-8, D 285

"...Third, the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which govern federal judges' sentencing decisions, do not currently have a guideline specifically directed at campaign finance violations. As a result, judges must use guidelines for other offenses, preventing them from considering factors which should enhance the punishment for FECA violations such as the size of a contribution or its origin. Our amendment would require the Sentencing Commission to promulgate a guideline specifically for violations of FECA and provide for enhancement of sentences if the violation involves (i) a contribution, donation or expenditure from a foreign source; (ii) a large number of illegal transactions; (iii) a large aggregate amount of illegal contributions, donations or expenditures; (iv) the receipt or disbursement of government funds; or (v) an intent to achieve a benefit from the government..." (Thompson, page S 3126)

Rejected:

Frist/Breaux Modified Amendment No. 156, to make certain provisions nonseverable, and to provide for expedited judicial review of any provision of, or amendment made by, this Act. (By 57 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 59), Senate tabled the amendment.)

Pages S 3087-S 3105, D 285

S. 27. Campaign Finance Reform (Cont'd.):

Pending:

Reed Amendment No. 164, to make amendments regarding the enforcement authority and procedures of the Federal Election Commission.

Pages S 3128-48, D 285

A unanimous-consent time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill and certain amendments to be proposed thereto, on Friday, March 30, 2001, with votes on pending amendments to occur beginning at 11:00 a.m. Further, the Senate will resume consideration of the bill on Monday, April 2, 2001, with a vote on final passage to occur at 5:30 p.m.

Pages S 3123, D 285-6

Committee Meeting:

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded hearings to examine issues related to Federal debt reduction as part of prioritizing the projected budget surpluses among competing priorities, such as tax cuts, Social Security and Medicare.

Page D 287

HOUSE

Bills Introduced:

H.R. 1290. *A bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to make such title fully applicable to the judicial branch of the Federal Government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.*

Jackson

Page H 1343

H.R. 1292. A bill to require the President to develop and implement a strategy for homeland security; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Skelton

Page H 1343

H.R. 1296. *A bill to amend chapter 1 of title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to motor vehicle franchise contracts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.*

Bono

Pages H 1343-4

H.R. 1307. *A bill to amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to increase the Government contribution for Federal employee health insurance; to the Committee on Government Reform.*

Hoyer

Page H 1344

H.R. 1312. A bill to *amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993* to permit leave after the death of a spouse for widows and widowers with minor children; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Government Reform, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

LaTourette

Page H 1344

Bills Introduced (Cont'd.):

H.R. 1314. A bill to provide an enhanced penalty for threatening to kill, injure, or intimidate an individual, or to cause property damage, by means of fire or an explosive on school property; to the Committee on the

Judiciary.

Lowey

Page H 1344

H.R. 1322. *A bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide emergency protection for retiree health benefits; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.*

Tierney

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H.R. 1324. *A bill to require Federal agencies to follow certain procedures with respect to the bundling of procurement contract requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.*

Velazquez

Page H 1345

H.R. 1327. *A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit H-2A workers from bringing law suits against employers except in the State in which the employer resides or has its principal place of business; to the Committee on the Judiciary.*

Whitfield

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Committee Meetings:

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary held a hearing on the Supreme Court. Testimony was heard from following Justices of the Supreme Court: Anthony M. Kennedy; and Clarence Thomas.

Page D 289

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime held an oversight hearing on Drug Trafficking on the Southwest Border. Testimony was heard from W. Royal Furgeson, Jr., Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas.

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Joint Committee Meeting:

Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia held joint hearings with the House Committee on Government Reform's Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization to examine the final report of the U.S. Commission on National Security in the 21st Century, focusing on national security implications of the human capital crisis.

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Remark:

Concurrent Resolution On The Budget, Fiscal Year 2002.

Gilman

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Next SENATE MEETING: Friday, 9:00 a.m., March 30, 2001.
Next HOUSE MEETING: Friday, 10:00 a.m., March 30, 2001.

OLA: S. Schwarz (Smith), J. Homanich